

Message Text

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S E C R E T ROME 7570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: NATO DECLARATION: ITALIAN VIEWS

REF: ROME 6775

1. IN JUNE 1 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, CHIEF OF MFA NATO OFFICE (DA RIN) EXPRESSED STRONG ITALIAN MISGIVINGS OVER BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF NATO DECLARATION EXERCISE. ON THE PROCEDURAL SIDE, DA RIN RESERVED HIS STRONGEST COMMENTS FOR THE BRITISH WHO, HE SAID, PULLED A FAST ONE ON THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS. ELABORATING, HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD, WITHIN EC-9 COUNCILS AND BILATERALLY WITH DA RIN PERSONALLY INITIALLY PROPOSED A REINFORCED NATO COMMUNIQUE TO MARK THE ALLIANCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY. AT NO TIME, DA RIN INSISTED, WAS IT ENVISIONED THAT THE BRITISH EFFORT WOULD CONSTITUTE A "DECLARATION". WHEN THE UK DOCUMENT WAS TABLED, DA RIN SAID THE ITALIANS WERE SHOCKED TO FIND NOT ONLY THAT IT WAS IN DECLARATION FORM BUT ALSO THAT IT HAD JUDICIALLY LIFTED PORTIONS OF BOTH THE FRENCH DRAFT ATLANTIC

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DECLARATION AND THE DRAFT EC-9 EUROPEAN DECLARATION.

2. DA RIN EMPHASIZED THAT A SINGLE DECLARATION WAS THE LAST THING THE GOI DESIRED (AS FORECAST IN DUCCI'S MAY 15 CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM--PARA 2 REFTTEL). THE ITALIANS HAD HOPED (AND, INDEED, STILL DO) TO RESURRENCT THE EC DECLARATION AT SOME PROPITIOUS TIME IN THE FUTURE. THEY NOW FEAR, ACCORDING TO DA RIN, THAT A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A RESURRECTION WOULD BE MET WITH A RESPONSE OF WHO NEEDS A SECOND DECLARATION GIVEN THE RELATIVE BREADTH OF THE NATO DECLARATION CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED.

3. ITALIAN SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS REFLECT THE SAME CONCERN AS THE FOREGOING. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE NATO DECLARATION IS THE PLACE FOR ANY REFERENCE TO US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DA RIN SINGLED OUT THE CONSULTATIONS PORTION OF PARA 11, AND PARTICULARLY THE REFERENCE TO THE QUOTE EVOLVING RELATIONS UNQUOTE OF THE ALLIES. DA RIN ASSERTED NATO QUA NATO RELATIONSHIPS WERE NOT EVOLVING AND THAT ADEQUATE MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATIONS ALREADY EXISTED IN VARIOUS NATO FORA. PARA 11, THEREFORE, PROPERLY BELONGED IN THE EC EUROPEAN DECLARATION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER THE UK'S RELUCTANCE TO CREDIT THE EUROPEAN UNIFICATION PROCESS CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN SECURITY, INDICATING THAT CALLAGHAN PERSONALLY HAD OBJECTED TO THE CONCEPT OUT OF SKEPTICISM OVER FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN UNITY.

4. DA RIN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE ITALIANS STILL HOPE, AS DID THE FRENCH WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH THAT VERY DAY, TO SALVAGE THE EC DECLARATION BY CONTINUING TO ARGUE FOR A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A NARROWER NATO DECLARATION.VOLPE

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